

National Management Measures to Protect and Restore Wetlands and Riparian Areas for the Abatement of Nonpoint Source Pollution

Appendix A: Federal, State, Nonprofit, and Private Financial and Technical Assistance Programs to Protect and Restore Wetlands

Full document available at
<http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/wetmeasures/>

Appendix A

Federal, State, Nonprofit, and Private Financial and Technical Assistance Programs to Protect and Restore Wetlands

This appendix contains examples of financial and technical assistance programs to protect and restore wetlands. It also contains incentive programs offered by state, nonprofit, and private organizations. For each agency and organization, contacts are provided for further information.

Federal Programs



United States Army Corps of Engineers

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provides design and engineering services and construction support for a variety of military and civilian projects worldwide. One civil duty includes protecting the integrity of the navigable waters of the United States, wetland resources, and the nation's water resources. USACE's duties also include maintaining navigation and shipping channels, providing emergency response to natural disasters, regulating discharges of dredged or fill material, operating and maintaining flood control reservoirs, and regulating activities in wetlands.

- Wetlands are managed by the USACE by the issuance or denial of Clean Water Act section 404 and other permits authorizing certain activities in wetlands and other waters of the United States. Of the approximately 15,000 permits requested each year, approximately 67 percent are granted.

For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, contact:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

CECW-OR

Washington, DC 20314-1000

Phone: (202) 761-0199

Web site: www.usace.army.mil



United States Department of Agriculture

The missions of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) are to enhance the quality of life

for the American people by supporting production of agriculture by

- Ensuring a safe, affordable, nutritious, and accessible food supply.
- Caring for agricultural, forest, and range lands.
- Supporting sound development of rural communities.
- Providing economic opportunities for farm and rural residents.
- Expanding global markets for agricultural and forest products and services.
- Working to reduce hunger in America and throughout the world.

Within the USDA, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Forest Service, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extensive Service, and the National Association of Conservation Districts participate in wetland incentives programs.

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The *Farm Service Agency (FSA)* of the USDA is interested in ensuring the well-being of American agriculture, the environment, and the American public through efficient management of farm commodities, emergency and disaster assistance, domestic and international food assistance and credit programs, and conservation and environmental programs.

- The Conservation Easement Debt Cancellation Program of the FSA allows for reduction of Farmer's Home Administration borrower debt in exchange for granting conservation easements for valuable habitat, including wetlands, on their property for a period of not less than 50 years.
- The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a cooperative partnership between the federal and state governments. The program has been administered by the USDA FSA since 1986. The program provides ranchers and farmers with incentives to remove land from production. These lands are then planted with trees or grass to prevent

erosion, improve air and water quality, and establish wildlife habitat.

- Farmers nationwide have contributed 36 million acres of cropland into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) (as of 1997). These farmers receive annual rental payments, cost-sharing, and technical assistance to plant vegetation for land they put into reserve for 10 to 15 years. Few of the fields placed in reserve have yet to have their full wetlands values restored. Although CRP funds are no longer available to help restore wetlands on these lands, the landowner may do so at any time with any other non-USDA assistance. The CRP is administered by the CFSA in cooperation with the NRCS. The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), under the Conservation Reserve Program, is a 1996 initiative continued in the 2002 Farm Bill. CREP targets state and federal funds to achieve shared environmental goals of national and state significance. The program uses financial incentives to encourage farmers and ranchers to voluntarily protect soil, water, and wildlife resources.
- Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) - This 2002 provision of the Farm Bill will use 30-year easements and rental agreements to improve management, restore, or conserve up to 2 million acres of private grasslands. 500,000 acres are to be reserved for protected tracts of 40 acres or less as native grasslands. Restoration cost payments may be up to 75 percent of eligible projects.

For more information, contact:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency
14th and Independence Avenues, SW
Washington, DC 20250
Phone: (202) 720-3467
Web site: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>



The **Forest Service** (FS) is a USDA agency that manages public lands in national forests and grasslands and is also the largest forestry research organization in the world. The agency provides technical and financial assistance to state and private forestry agencies “to provide the greatest amount of good for the greatest amount of people in the long run.”

- Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) and Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP) - FSP and SIP are U.S. Forest Service programs established to help landowners protect and enhance their forestlands and associated wetlands. FSP provides technical assistance to help landowners enhance and protect the timber, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, wetlands, and recreational and aesthetic values of their property. SIP provides cost-share assistance to private landowners for implementing the management plans developed under FSP.
<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/fsp.shtml>
- Forest Legacy Program - The Forest Legacy Program is a U.S. Forest Service program that purchases easements to conserve environmentally important forestlands, which often contain wetlands, threatened with conversion to other uses. Puerto Rico and 17 states are currently active in the program (as of 1997) (USEPA, 1997c).
- Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) - Authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill, the FLEP is a new conservation program to provide financial, technical, and educational assistance to State Foresters who will help private landowners actively manage their land. It replaces and expands the Stewardship Incentive program and Forestry program. The new FLEP will provide up to \$100 million over 6 years to private, non-industrial forest

owners. The new title also provides \$210 million to help fight fire on private land and address fire prevention.

For more information on the Forest Service, contact:
U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service
Public Affairs Office
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: (202) 205-1760
Fax: (202) 205-1765
Web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us>



The *Natural Resources Conservation Service* (NRCS) [formerly USDA Soil Conservation Service] is a federal agency that works in partnership with the public to conserve and sustain natural resources. The NRCS provides technical assistance to landowners in development of resource management systems that conserve soil, air, water, plant, and animal resources. This agency employs soil scientists, plant scientists, and engineers who can provide assistance in identifying, restoring, enhancing, and creating wetlands. The NRCS provides technical assistance and information for making wetland determinations for wetland protection and management programs; developing conservation plans for protecting and managing wetlands; providing income-producing alternatives for use and management of wetlands; developing standards and specifications and designing and installing conservation measures for wetland restoration, creation, and enhancement; providing information on plant materials for wetland planting; and providing soil surveys and information for identifying, planning, and managing wetlands. Wetland incentive programs administered by the NRCS include the following:

- Conservation of Highly Erodible Lands - The highly erodible land part of the 1985 Food Security Act restricts access by agricultural producers who grow crops on highly erodible land to specified farm program benefits. The goals are to reduce soil lost to wind and water erosion and to improve water quality. Compliance requires the development of a conservation plan for all highly erodible fields on a farm. The plans must be approved by the

producer, NRCS, and the local Natural Resources District. NRCS provides technical assistance to the producer in developing the plan.

- Conservation of Private Grazing Land - This program was authorized by the 1996 Farm Bill for the purpose of providing technical and educational assistance to owners of private grazing lands. It offers opportunities for better land management, erosion reduction, water conservation, wildlife habitat, and improving soil structure.
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - EQIP provides a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers to address threats to soil, water, and related natural resources. It offers 5- to 10-year contracts that provide incentive payments and cost-sharing for conservation practices called for in the site-specific plan. NRCS conducts an evaluation of the environmental benefits the producer offers, and funding is approved for the highest-priority applications first. Cost sharing may pay up to 75 percent of the costs of certain conservation practices, such as grassed waterways, filter strips, and other practices important to improving and maintaining the health of natural resources in the area.
- National Conservation Buffer Initiatives - The National Conservation Buffer Initiative plans to install 2 million miles of conservation buffers nationwide by the year 2000. This initiative does not specifically target stream-side areas for buffers, but it includes buffers between fields, wind breaks, and a variety of other practices.
- Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) - The RC&D is a program for landowner associations and interest groups that allocates grants to RC&D areas to accelerate resource protection projects and programs in multicounty areas as a base for economic development and environmental protection.
- Swampbuster - The Swampbuster program is a provision of the Food Security Act of 1985. It discourages the draining, filling, and other alteration of wetlands for agricultural uses

through financial disincentives. The NRCS determines compliance with Swampbuster provisions and assists farmers in identifying wetlands and developing wetland protection, restoration, and creation plans.

- Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) - The WRP is a voluntary USDA program offering landowners a chance to receive payments for restoring and protecting wetlands. Authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985, the WRP provides a unique opportunity for farmers to retire marginal lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements, or restoration cost-share agreements and reap the many benefits of having wetlands on their property.
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) - WHIP is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on private lands. The USDA provides both technical assistance and cost-share incentives to help establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. Participants who own or control land agree to prepare and implement a wildlife habitat development plan.

For more information on the NRCS programs, contact:
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 Natural Resources Conservation Service
 14th and Independence Avenues, SW
 Washington, DC 20250
 Phone: (202) 720-4525
 Web sites: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmland/2002/>



United States Department of The Interior

The mission of the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American people.



The **Bureau of Reclamation** (Reclamation) is an agency within the DOI whose mission is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public. Reclamation operates and manages dams and reservoirs throughout the western United States for irrigation, hydroelectricity, municipal and industrial water supply, fish and wildlife, and recreation uses.

- Reclamation's Wetland Development Program restores, enhances, and develops wetlands, riparian habitat, and associated habitats on Reclamation lands and on lands associated with water supplies and systems affected by Reclamation projects. The program aims to improve water quality and habitat for wildlife at Reclamation projects and to support the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and other migratory bird initiatives. Although not required, almost every project involves partnership development and cost-sharing with federal and non-federal entities. Recent collaborative projects include restoration of the 300-acre Alpine wetland on the Idaho-Wyoming border, restoration of the 8,000-acre Rincon Bayou-Nueces estuary on the Texas Gulf Coast, development of wetlands to improve wastewater and provide habitat for endangered species in Arizona and Nevada, restoration of vernal pools and habitat for endangered species in California, development and restoration of wetlands in the Devils Lake basin in North Dakota to attenuate runoff and reduce high lake levels in Devils Lake, restoring wetlands and water control structures on national wildlife refuges and waterfowl management areas, and working with irrigation districts to develop wetlands to improve the quality of return flows.
- Reclamation partnerships with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have funded wetland restoration and development projects

for fish and wildlife throughout the western United States. Funds have been provided to restore wetlands in Oklahoma for migratory birds, develop wetlands for endangered species in Nevada, and stabilize channel morphology and restore riparian habitat to improve water quality in Montana.

- The DOI's National Irrigation Water Quality Program was established in 1986 to develop coordinated remediation plans with appropriate federal, state, and local entities to implement corrective actions where irrigation drainage from federal irrigation projects has affected endangered species or migratory birds or created water quality problems from naturally occurring sources. Reclamation is responsible for program management. The U.S. Geological Survey, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs work cooperatively with Reclamation on program oversight and technical issues.

For more information, contact:

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation, Public Affairs
1849 C Street, NW

Main Interior Building
Washington, DC 20240
Phone: (202) 513-0575
Web Site: <http://www.usbr.gov/>



National Park Service (NPS) was created to promote and regulate the use of national parks to conserve scenery and the natural and historic resources within them to serve for enjoyment today and in the future.

- The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) is a program that works in partnership with project cooperators

to help them obtain funding for their projects. Several projects have some focus on wetland protection and restoration. Examples of such programs include the protection of 2,500 acres of wetlands in the upper Des Plaines River Macrosite (Illinois and Wisconsin) and the rehabilitation of habitat of wetlands in the Missouri River Corridor (Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa).

For more information on NPS projects, contact:

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240
Phone: (202) 208-6843
Web site: <http://www.nps.gov/>



United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing certain fish and wildlife and their habitats, in particular migratory game and endangered species. Among other roles, the USFWS administers the federal Endangered Species Act and establishes and maintains a system of more than 500 National Wildlife Refuges nationwide. The USFWS also manages the taking of migratory waterfowl and conducts research and monitoring programs to inventory and record changes in populations of fish and wildlife and in habitats.

- Challenge Cost Share Program - The USFWS designed this program to manage, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife resources and natural habitats on public and private lands. The program is a partnership with non-federal public and private institutions, organizations, and individuals. Challenge Cost Share allows the USFWS to provide matching funds for projects that support the management, restoration, and protection of natural resources on more than 500 National Wildlife Refuges, 70

fish hatcheries, research facilities, and private lands.

- The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program was founded with the enactment of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (Title III of P.L. 101-646) in 1990. The program allows the USFWS to work directly with states to acquire, restore, manage, or enhance coastal wetlands through a matching grants program. Louisiana is the only coastal state that is not eligible for grant monies because that state has its own coastal wetland program under the act. The program has awarded \$53 million to 24 states and one territory, allowing more than 63,000 acres of coastal wetlands to be acquired, protected, or restored.
- The Small Wetlands Acquisition Program (SWAP) was created by the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act to preserve wetlands and increase waterfowl production. The primary focus of the program is on the Prairie Pothole Region of the United States (Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota). Prairie potholes are freshwater depressions, usually less than 2 feet deep and smaller than 1 acre, that were carved by glaciers. Since 1989 more than 23,000 easements on 1.2 million acres of wetlands have been obtained by the USFWS to protect these areas.
- Conservation Easement Debt Cancellation Program - The Consolidated Farm Service Agency (CFSA) allows for reduction of Farmer's Home Administration (FmHA) borrower debt in exchange for granting conservation easements for valuable habitat, including wetlands, on their property for a period of not less than 50 years. Wetlands placed in easements by farmers for FmHA debt reduction may be managed by the USFWS. FmHA has become part of the CFSA; therefore, CFSA now manages FmHA loans.
- The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), established in 1989, encourages partnerships among public agencies and

other interests in the United States, Canada, and Mexico to (1) protect, enhance, restore, and manage wetland ecosystems and other habitats for migratory birds, fish, and wildlife in North America; (2) maintain current or improved distribution of migratory bird populations; and (3) sustain an abundance of waterfowl and other migratory birds consistent with the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and international treaty obligations.

- The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) was signed in 1986 between the United States and Canada to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands important to waterfowl and other wetland-dependent bird species. Mexico has recently signed the NAWMP as well. The NAWMP's primary objective is to return waterfowl populations to levels observed in the 1970s, when fall flights exceeded 80 million ducks. The plan is implemented at the grassroots level by partnerships called joint ventures. Wetlands identified under NAWMP as "areas of major concern" for waterfowl habitat (e.g., migration, nesting, and forage areas) are targets for these joint ventures.

Examples of NAWMP projects include the Gulf Coast Joint Venture, which focuses on perpetuating healthy wintering grounds for migrating waterfowl and other birds and wildlife species along the Gulf Coast from Alabama to Texas, and the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture, covering 22 million acres in 10 Delta states. Its target is the enhancement of wetlands on private lands. In California, there are three joint ventures: the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture (1988), the Pacific Coast Joint Venture (1994), and the Intermountain West Joint Venture (1994). A fourth, covering the southern region of the state, is being planned.



The **Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program** (PFFW), also known as the Private Lands Assistance

and Restoration Program, offers technical and cost-share assistance to landowners who wish to restore wildlife habitat, including degraded or converted wetlands and those upland habitats that meet specific eligibility criteria. The objectives of PFFW programs, which operate in all 50 states, are to restore, enhance, and manage wetlands for fish and wildlife habitat; promote profitable land use for agriculture, industry, and private landowners; and promote a wise and lasting land-use ethic. Formerly known as the Partners for Wildlife Program (PFW), the USFWS will enter into agreements with private landowners for the restoration, creation, and enhancement of wetlands and associated habitats. The PFW and PFFW have protected almost 1 million acres of wetlands and other habitats since 1987.

- The Montana PFFW has focused on five areas for restoration projects: Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem, the Rocky Mountain Front, Beaver Creek Prairie Pothole Joint Venture, and Centennial and Big Hole Valleys. Under these projects, Montana PFFW has worked with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, and the Flat-head Indian Reservation to restore wetlands, fence riparian areas, and manage livestock.
- In South Dakota, 1,879 landowners are participating in the program (as of 1997).
- The Prairie Wetlands Project (PWP) was designed to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Gulf Coast Joint Venture (GCJV); the PWP is a partnership effort to restore, create, or enhance wetlands beneficial for waterfowl and other wildlife use. PWP projects include management of water on cropped lands, restoration of converted wetlands, enhancement of natural wetlands, or creation of wetlands on non-wetland sites. The PWP is a FWS partnership effort to restore, create, or enhance wetlands beneficial for waterfowl and other wildlife. In exchange for financial and technical incentives, landowners develop a management plan, which may include management of water on cropped lands, restoration of converted wetlands, enhancement of natural wetlands, or creation of wetlands on non-wetland sites.

Cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent is available.

For more information on the USFWS programs, contact:

U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Aid
Arlington Square, Room 140
4401 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203
Phone: (703) 358-2156
Fax: (703) 358-1837
Web site: <http://www.fws.gov/>

For information specific to the Coastal Habitat Conservation Program, contact USFWS':

Division of Habitat Conservation
4401 N. Fairfax Drive Room 400
Arlington, VA 22203
Phone: (703) 358-2201
Fax: (703) 358-2232
Web site: <http://www.fws.gov/coastal/coastalgrants>



The **United States Geological Survey (USGS)** provides the nation with reliable, impartial information to describe and understand the earth.

- The National Wetlands Research Center (NWRC) was established by USGS to develop and disseminate scientific information needed for understanding the ecology and values of the nation's wetlands and for managing and restoring wetland habitats and associated plant and animal communities. The Water Quality Incentives Program (WQIP) is a voluntary incentive program designed to protect water sources on farmlands through 3- to 5-year agreements with the CFSA. These agreements require the development and implementation of a water quality management program that provides water quality benefits, wetland protection, and wildlife benefits. The Wetland Ecology Branch of the NWRC conducts research related to sustainable management and restoration of the nation's coastal saltwater wetlands, coastal

and inland freshwater wetlands, submerged aquatic ecosystems, and coastal prairie.

For more information, contact:

U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192
Phone: (703) 648-4748
Web site: <http://www.usgs.gov/>



United States Environmental Protection Agency

The mission of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment—air, water, and land—upon which life depends.

EPA is responsible for implementing federal laws designed to protect the nation's natural resources. This is done primarily through regulation, but EPA has also developed a wide variety of funding, planning, and education programs. EPA has the authority to regulate wetlands under section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, EPA awards funds to states and eligible tribes to implement NPS management programs. These funds can be used for projects that include protection and restoration of wetlands and the development of vegetated treatment systems. More information about the Section 319 program is provided at www.epa.gov/owow/nps/cwact.html.

- EPA's Wetland State Partnership Grant Program provides money to states that encourage wetlands protection and restoration. For example, the Division of Natural Heritage of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation received a \$208,207 grant to encourage property owners to voluntarily enroll wetlands in state and federal wetland conservation and assistance programs; to work with state, county, and local governments to avoid or minimize impacts on wetlands; and to encourage voluntary wetland conservation in four of the

state's counties: Fayette, Franklin, Lauderdale, and Rutherford.

- The 51 Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) programs currently issue approximately \$3 billion in loans annually. SRF loans are issued at below market rates (0 percent to less than market), offering borrowers significant savings over the life of the loan. Based on the serious threats to wetland resources across the country, EPA would like to see the SRF become a major source of funding for wetland protection. In creating the SRF, Congress ensured that it would be able to fund virtually any type of water quality project, including nonpoint source, wetlands, estuary, and other types of watershed projects, as well as more traditional municipal wastewater treatment systems. Today, the SRF provisions in the Clean Water Act give no more preference to one category or type of project than any other. Wetland projects typically fall under approved state nonpoint source management plans or are included in national estuary management plans. Constructed wetlands may be considered wastewater or stormwater management projects and are also eligible for funding. SRF-fundable projects include wetland restoration, wetland protection, and constructed wetlands.

For more information, contact your Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program or contact:

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund Branch
U.S. EPA
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460
Phone: (202) 260-7359
Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/OWM>

For more information on EPA's other wetlands programs, contact:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
OWOW, OW, Office of Wetlands
Phone: (800) 832-7828 (Monday through Friday
from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm EST)
Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/>

State, Nonprofit, and Private Organizations



Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is a private, nonprofit organization that recruits and mobilizes broad participation in restoration of the bay's resources, public policy, and education by providing citizens with the information and opportunities to make a difference at home, in their communities, and on a regional basis.

- The Alliance was chosen to manage the Small Watershed Grants program, developed by the Chesapeake Bay Program. This program was allocated \$750,000 by Congress for grants to local governments and watershed-based nonprofit groups in the Chesapeake Bay drainage basin. In 1998 more than 160 organizations applied for the grants, and 37 were chosen. The major criterion for selection was that the project must have tangible results showing bay or river improvement that includes community involvement.

For more information, contact:

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

6600 York Road, Suite 100

Baltimore, MD 21212

Phone: (410) 377-6270 (or call the Chesapeake

Regional Information Service (800) 662-CRIS)

Web site: <http://www.acb-online.org>



American Farmland Trust

The American Farmland Trust (AFT) was established as a nonprofit organization that works with farmers, business people, legislators, and conservationists to

encourage sound farming practices and preserve the country's most critical agricultural resources.

- The Farm Legacy Program of the AFT encourages farm owners threatened by development to donate their lands to AFT. By donating their land, the landowners may retain lifetime use of the property because the AFT sells the farm with conservation easements to guarantee the preservation of the property. The AFT also accepts nonfarm properties and appreciated securities.

For more information, contact:

American Farmland Trust National Office

1920 N Street, N.W., Suite 400

Washington, D.C. 20036

Phone: (202) 659-5170

Fax: (202) 659-8339

Web site: <http://www.farmland.org>



California Coastal Conservancy

The California Coastal Conservancy was established by the California legislature to protect, restore, and enhance coastal resources by working in partnership with local governments, other public agencies, non-profit organizations, and private landowners.

The California Coastal Conservancy has done more than 700 projects along California's 1,110 mile coastline and San Francisco Bay. The goals of the California Coastal Conservancy include:

- Improving public access to the coast and bay shores.
- Protecting and enhancing coastal wetlands, steams, and watersheds.
- Restoring urban waterfronts for public use and coastal development.
- Resolving coastal land use conflicts.
- Acquiring and holding environmentally valuable coastal land.
- Protecting agricultural lands.

For more information, contact:
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
Phone: (510) 286-1015
Fax: (510) 286-0470
Web site: <http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/>



California Waterfowl Association

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) is a nonprofit organization that preserves, protects, and enhances California's waterfowl and wetland resources. The CWA provides technical assistance to landowners, conducts research, and lobbies state and federal governments to promote protection of waterfowl and provision of habitat.

- The Waterfowl Programs seek increases in populations of waterfowl, especially mallards, pintails, wood ducks, and Canada geese.
- Under the California Waterfowl Habitat Program, CWA assists the California Department of Fish and Game in providing incentive funds and preparing detailed plans for habitat management on private lands.
- A nontraditional effort involving salvage of eggs from nests destroyed by agricultural operations is being closely monitored to determine if released ducklings can assist waterfowl population enhancement efforts.

For further information, contact:
California Waterfowl Association
4630 Northgate Boulevard, Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834
Phone: (916) 648-1406
Fax: (916) 648-1665
Web site: <http://www.calwaterfowl.org/>



Chesapeake Bay Foundation

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to restore and sustain the bay's ecosystem by substantially improving water quality and productivity of the watershed.

- Restoration programs by CBF are voluntary and include citizens, school groups, and corporate participants. Examples of wetland restoration projects include wetland plantings, wetland mapping, and educational activities.

For more information, contact:
162 Prince George Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
Phone: (410) 268-8816
Fax: (410) 268-6687
Web site: <http://www.cbf.org>



Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is a nonprofit organization that promotes public awareness and participation in the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay.

- The Trust was created by the Maryland General Assembly in 1985.
- More than 1,000 communities, volunteer groups, and schools in Maryland have received grant money totaling \$933,287 for habitat restoration, cleanups, and other bay resource-related projects.
- The Trust is supported by private citizens and the business community. The purchase of Chesapeake Bay license plates funds part of the Trust. In addition, taxpayers may make donations of their refund to the Trust.

For further information, contact:

Chesapeake Bay Trust
60 West Street, Suite 200A
Annapolis, MD 21401
Phone: (410) 974-2941
Fax: (410) 269-0378
Web site: <http://www.chesapeakebaytrust.org>



Ducks Unlimited

Ducks Unlimited (DU) is a private, nonprofit organization that works to help fulfill annual life cycle needs of waterfowl by protecting, enhancing, restoring, and managing important wetland and associated upland habitat throughout the states.

- DU cost-shares in the improvement of habitat through the Matching Aid to Restore States' Habitat (MARSH) Program. This reimbursement program provides matching funds for wetland acquisition and development.
- Habitat 2000: Campaign for a Continent - This is DU's six year comprehensive campaign to ensure a future for North America's wetlands and waterfowl. The program's goal is to restore 1.7 million acres of wetland and upland habitat by raising \$600 million.

For further information, contact:

Ducks Unlimited National Headquarters
One Waterfowl Way
Memphis, TN 38120-2351
Phone: (901) 758-3825 or (800) 45-DUCKS
Web site: <http://www.ducks.org>



Great Plains Partnership

Spanning the 13 Great Plains states and the corresponding regions of Canada and Mexico, the Great Plains Partnership (GPP) is an outcome-oriented partnership composed of federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, nongovernmental organizations, and landowners. Its mission is to catalyze and empower the people of the Great Plains to define and create their own generational sustainable future.

- The GPP provides technical assistance and help in overcoming institutional and regulatory hurdles that local partnerships cannot resolve on their own.
- Sandhills (NE) - Ranchers in the Sandhills of Nebraska have been working with a local coordinator from the USFWS to preserve and restore wetlands areas that are important for hay meadows and fens, which are globally unique natural communities. Their coalition has grown to include representatives from other state and federal agencies. Their work provides an important example of successful cooperation.
- Rainwater Basin (NE) - The Rainwater Basin is a North American Waterfowl Management Plan Joint Venture in Nebraska to restore wetlands for migratory birds. GPP will test the use of a newly developed model that classifies wetland by functional value, in order to foster an alternative compliance strategy that allows farmers to develop a wetland restoration program through wetlands banking and trades to protect both the most valuable wetlands and croplands. Regulatory agencies, which will have to suspend current regulations, will be important partners and will oversee that the results equal or exceed those achievable through normal enforcement.

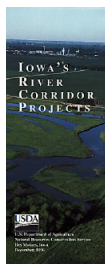
For more information, contact:
Great Plains Partnership
Web site: <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov>



Illinois Wetlands Conservation Strategy

The Illinois Wetlands Conservation Strategy (IWCS) is a comprehensive plan to guide the development and implementation of Illinois's wetland programs and protection initiatives. It is an organizational tool used to identify opportunities for making programs work better. The goal of the IWCS is to ensure that there will be no net loss of wetlands or their functions in Illinois.

For further information, contact:
Illinois Wetlands Conservation Strategy
15536 Sr. 78
Havana, IL 62644
Web site: <http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/chf/pub/surveyreports/jul-aug95/wetland.html>



Iowa River Corridor Project

The Iowa River Corridor Project uses a voluntary approach to wetland restoration by giving landowners economic alternatives for frequently flooded farmland, and the project is intended to improve water quality and wildlife habitat. It is sponsored by the Iowa NRCS. The farmers can choose to continue farming as they have, sell an easement and have a wetland

restored, sell an easement and title to the USFWS, or try some alternative farming practices.

For further information, contact:
Iowa River Corridor Project
Web site: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/IowaRiverCorridor/>



Izaak Walton League of America

The mission of the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) is to protect the nation's soil, air, woods, waters, and wildlife.

- The Wetlands Conservation and Sustainability Project, part of the Save Our Streams Program, helps bring citizens, planners, government agencies, businesses, and others together to become wetland stewards by taking a proactive role in wetland conservation and protection. The IWLA has lobbied at the national level to create and protect wetland legislation, and League members have worked for wetland protection and restoration through 350 local chapters nationwide.

For further information, contact:
Izaak Walton League of America National Office
707 Conservation Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Phone: (301) 548-0150
Fax: (301) 548-0146
Web site: <http://www.iwla.org>



Land Trust Alliance

The Land Trust Alliance supports conservation in communities across the country by ensuring that people who work through voluntary land trust organizations have the information, skills, and resources they need to save land.

- Land trusts are used to acquire land and then either transfer it to a governmental agency or retain it for long-term ownership and stewardship.
- Conservation easements are the principle tool used by most land trusts to achieve their land conservation objectives.
- There are currently more than 1,100 land trusts in America, including many for wetlands.

For more information, contact:
Land Trust Alliance
1319 F Street, NW, Suite 501
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) 638-4725
Fax: (202) 638-4730
Web site: <http://www.lta.org/>



Michigan Wildlife Conservancy

The Michigan Wildlife Conservancy provides technical and financial assistance that landowners and managers need to restore and maintain wildlife habitat through cost-effective projects.

For more information, contact:
Michigan Wildlife Habitat Conservancy
Web site: <http://www.miwildlife.org>



National Audubon Society

The mission of the National Audubon Society (NAS) is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

- One of the high-priority campaigns of the NAS is to preserve wetlands. The goal of the Wetlands Campaign is to preserve and restore the nation's wetland ecosystems through a partnership of Audubon volunteer leaders, staff, and directors to protect birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, as well as to protect human health and safety and to sustain a healthy economy. The campaign includes a community-based effort to protect and restore 1,000,000 wetland acres within 3 years, establishment of strong wetland protection and restoration laws, creation of a network of thousands of Audubon volunteers and chapters, working together to promote sound measures to manage and protect wetland ecosystems, and public communication and education.

For more information, contact:
National Audubon Society
700 Broadway
New York, NY 10003
Phone: (212) 979-3000
Web site: <http://www.audubon.org/>



National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is a nonprofit organization established by Congress in 1984 to foster cooperative efforts to conserve fish, wildlife, and plant species. Its mission is to provide

creative and sustainable solutions for fish and wildlife, and plant conservation. All NFWF grants are a two-to-one match (non-federal to federal), and the match must be derived from a source other than the applicant.

NFWF projects include education projects about fish, wildlife, plants, and habitats for schoolchildren, higher education institutions, and professionals. The organization is involved in fisheries conservation and management, neotropical migratory bird conservation, wetlands and private lands, and wildlife and habitat.

For more information, contact:
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 857-0166
Fax: (202) 857-0162
Web site: <http://www.nfwf.org>



National Wildlife Federation

The mission of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is to educate, inspire, and assist individuals and organizations of diverse cultures to conserve wildlife and other natural resources and to protect the earth's environment in order to achieve a peaceful, equitable, and sustainable future.

The NWF's main goal is to raise awareness and involve people of all ages in their fight to conserve and protect the environment.

For further information, contact:
National Wildlife Federation
8925 Leesburg Pike
Vienna, VA 22184
Phone: (703) 790-4000
Web site: <http://www.nwf.org>



National Wetlands Conservation Alliance

The National Wetlands Conservation Alliance is an informal partnership of private organizations and government agencies working to build broad support for and to improve the delivery of voluntary landowner wetlands restoration, enhancement, and conservation.

- The organization's vision is to become informed landowners voluntarily deciding to protect and manage existing wetlands and restore and enhanced drained and partially drained wetlands.
- Funding and program guidance are provided by participating organizations and government agencies and the National Association of Conservation Districts.
- A major emphasis of the organization is to support and improve USDA's Wetland Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Program, and other "Farm Bill" programs, and the Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Wildlife and North American Waterfowl Management Plan programs.

For further information, contact:
National Wetlands Conservation Alliance
509 Capitol Court, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4946
Phone: (202) 547-6223
Fax: (202) 547-6450
Web site: <http://www.erols.com/wetlandg>



Nebraska Environmental Trust

Nebraska Environmental Trust

The Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund was organized in 1992 as a means to raise money for Nebraska's environment. What is unique about this program is that it is funded by the Nebraska Lottery. The public is also involved in the state's environment because the fund is administered by a governor-appointed board of nine citizens and six state agency representatives.

- One of the major focuses of the trust fund is the preservation and restoration of wetlands and other areas critical to rare or endangered species.
- Applicants that receive grant money must meet economic, technical, and financial feasibility criteria and show that the public benefits of the proposed project will be as apparent as the environmental benefits.

For more information, contact:
 Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund
 2200 North 33rd Street, P.O. Box 3070
 Lincoln, NE 68503-0370
 Phone: (402) 471-5409
 Web site: <http://www.environmentaltrust.org>



Operation Green Stripe

Operation Green Stripe was developed in 1992 to combat the problem of surface water runoff of soil sediment by encouraging the planting of grassy buffer strips along streams, lakes, and sinkholes on farm property.

- Through Operation Green Stripe, Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapters recruit farmers to establish vegetative buffers between their fields and surface water supplies. Cooperating agriculture retailers provide free grass seed for the strips, and Monsanto provides educational grants to FFA chapters based on the number of farmers the students recruit.

For further information, contact:
 Monsanto Company
 800 North Lindbergh Boulevard
 St. Louis, MO 63167
 Phone: (314) 694-2789
 Fax: (314) 694-2922
 Web site: <http://www.monsanto.com>



Pheasants Forever

Pheasants Forever (PF) is a nonprofit wildlife conservation group whose mission is to protect and enhance pheasant and other wildlife populations throughout North America through public awareness and education, habitat restoration, development and maintenance, and improvements in land and water management policies. Local PF chapters work with private landowners to provide for the creation and enhancement of wildlife habitat.

- Since its establishment, PF has spent more than \$24 million on habitat restoration projects on 850,000 acres of land. These projects restore habitat by renovating nesting cover, planting windbreaks and hedgerows, establishing food plots, restoring wetlands, and acquiring lands.

For further information, contact:
 Pheasants Forever National Headquarters
 1783 Buerkle Circle
 St. Paul, MN 55110
 Phone: (612) 773-2000
 Fax: (612) 773-5500
 Web site: <http://www.pheasantsforever.org>



Public Service Electric & Gas Co.

The Public Service Electric & Gas Co. (PSE&G) is a leader in providing energy-efficient services and developing environmentally sound energy systems to improve the social, economic, and environmental standards of society.

- PSE&G is conducting the Estuary Enhancement Program (EEP) under the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. Of the

land slated for restoration, 12,500 acres are in New Jersey, and 8,000 are in Delaware. Nearly 17,000 acres are going to be restored as salt marshes, creating the largest endeavor of its kind. PSE&G purchased land and made agreements with landowners to gain access to land.

For more information, contact:

Public Service Enterprise Group (PSE&G)

Englewood, NJ 07631

Phone: 800-350-PSEG

Web site: <http://www.pseg.com>



Quail Unlimited

Quail Unlimited is a nonprofit organization that was established in 1981 to improve and preserve upland game habitat. It has more than 400 chapters. QU funds are used for local habitat and education projects, state wildlife departments, upland game bird management, habitat research, and education programs.

- One of QU's habitat improvement initiatives is to create water sites in arid and semiarid areas for quail habitat. Much of the water site development work is performed in cooperation with the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management under cost-share agreements.

For further information, contact:

Quail Unlimited National Headquarters

P.O. Box 610

Edgefield, SC 29824

Phone: (803) 637-5731, ext. 28

Web site: <http://www.qu.org>



Restore America's Estuaries

Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) is a nonprofit coalition of community-based organizations working to save coastal resources. Its mission is to protect and restore coastal areas by increasing awareness and appreciation of the resources and leading a campaign to restore 1 million acres of estuarine habitat (including wetlands) by the year 2010.

- RAE's 11 members are American Littoral Society (Hudson-Raritan estuaries of New York and New Jersey), Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, Conservation Law Foundation (Gulf of Maine), Galveston Bay Foundation; North Carolina Coastal Federation, North Carolina Coastal Federation, People for Puget Sound, Save San Francisco Bay Association; Save the Bay (Narragansett Bay), Save the Sound (Long Island Sound), and Tampa BAYWATCH.
- Estuary habitat restoration includes maintaining food supplies for aquatic life, creating and protecting jobs that rely on estuaries (fishing, tourism, boating), protecting human health, expanding recreational abilities, enhancing quality of life, and education.

For more information, contact:

Restore America's Estuaries

1200 New York Avenue, N.W.

Suite 400

Washington, DC 20005

Phone: (202) 289-2380

Fax: (202) 842-4932

Web site: <http://www.estuaries.org>



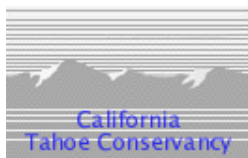
Sierra Club

The Sierra Club is a nonprofit organization that promotes conservation of the natural environment by influencing public policy decisions.

More information about wetlands is available from the Sierra Club's wetlands website at <http://www.sierraclub.org/wetlands>

For information on the Sierra Club, contact:

Sierra Club
85 Second Street, Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105-3441
Phone: (415) 977-5500
Fax: (415) 977-5799
Web site: <http://www.sierraclub.org/>



The Tahoe Conservancy

The Tahoe Conservancy, a California agency, is charged with preserving and enhancing the unique ecological and recreational values of the Tahoe basin through the Tahoe Conservancy Program. Its primary objectives goals are to protect the natural environment of the basin, to increase public access and recreation opportunities for visitors to the lake, and to preserve and enhance the broad diversity of wildlife habitat in the Tahoe Basin.

- The Conservancy's work with private owners of wetland property comes primarily through its acquisition program. It focuses on obtaining conservation easements, development rights, and full titles to lands that contain marsh,

meadow, or riparian areas. The Conservancy offers 95 percent of what property would bring on the open market.

For further information, contact:

The Tahoe Conservancy
2161 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Phone: (916) 542-5580
Fax: (916) 542-5591
Web site: <http://www.tahoicons.ca.gov/>



The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) mission is to preserve plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the lands and water they need to survive.

- The Natural Areas Registries program of the TNC honors private landowners of outstanding natural areas for their commitment to the survival of the land's natural heritage. The registry is voluntary, and no payment is involved.

For more information, contact:

The Nature Conservancy, International Headquarters
1815 North Lynn Street
Arlington, VA 22209
Phone: (703) 841-5300
Web site: <http://nature.org>



Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited (TU) is an organization of conservation-minded anglers who promote quality trout and salmon fisheries for their intrinsic values, as well as a reminder of watershed health. TU conserves, protects, and restores North America's trout and salmon

fisheries and their watersheds. This is accomplished on the local, state, and national level.

For more information, contact:

Trout Unlimited

1500 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 310

Arlington, VA 22209-2404

Phone: (703) 522-0200

Fax: (703) 284-9400

Web site: <http://www.tu.org>



Wetland Habitat Alliance of Texas

The Wetland Habitat Alliance of Texas (WHAT) is an organization dedicated to preserving Texas wetlands by raising public awareness and appreciation of wetlands and funding projects to manage wetland waters; protect, enhance, and restore natural wetlands; and create wetlands on non-wetland sites.

- The cooperator and WHAT agree to a proposed project, and NRCS verifies the operable conditions before the project is approved. Interested landowners can receive up to 100 percent financial assistance for a 10-year minimum agreement.

For more information, contact:

Wetland Habitat Alliance of Texas

118 East Hospital, Suite 208

Nachodoches, TX 75961

Phone: (409) 569-9428 or (800) 962-WHAT

Web site: <http://www.whatduck.org/homepage.htm>



Wildlife Habitat Council

The Wildlife Habitat Council seeks to increase the quality of wildlife habitat on corporate, private, and public lands.

- WHC's Corporate Wildlife Habitat Certification/International Accreditation Program recognizes corporate properties with meaningful wildlife habitat management programs, including environmental education programs. Certification through WHC provides third-party credibility and an objective evaluation of projects.
- WHC builds cooperative ventures between corporate, private, government, and conservation communities to improve and manage habitat along river corridors and watersheds.
- Under its Wastelands to Wetlands program, WHC reclaims sites considered unsalvageable for wildlife habitat.

For further information, contact:

Wildlife Habitat Council

1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 920

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Phone: (301) 588-8994

Fax: (301) 588-4629

Web site: <http://www.wildlifehc.org/>